High Court is required to take steps for improvement in the rate of disposal of cases. If the average disposal of concerned High Court is above the national average then increase in Judge strength is accordingly considered. The strength of Additional Judges is reviewed only if there is an increase in the arrears of the pending cases during the last 5 years and the disposal per Judge is above the national average. The last review was undertaken in the year 2003 when 94 new posts were recommended. As an interim review, 4 posts of Judges were approved for the Bombay High Court in 2005, making the total for increase of 98 posts. The next review is due in 2006 for which the High Courts have been requested to furnish data.

Lifetime validity schemes floated by cellular service providers

*35. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KASHATRIYA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that private and public sector mobile companies are vigorously advertising lifelong validity connections to woo consumer while their license tenure is actually for a period of 15 to 20 years only and some of this period has also lapsed;

(b) if so, the details of the step taken or to be taken by Government to safeguard the interest of consumers in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Several mobile operators have implemented tariff schemes under the name and style of lifetime validity.

The Mobile Telephone Service License is for a period of 20 years with a provision of extension by another 10 years, if requested by the licensee in the 19th year.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper highlighting various issues/concerns and sought views of the stakeholders on various aspects of the schemes. The issues raised in the consultation paper are as follows:

- Long-term viability and sustainability of tariff schemes with lifetime validity
- The concept of lifetime validity
- Change in traffic patterns and Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) Regime
- Protection against hike in tariff
- Implications for the orderly growth of the telecom sector
- Exit option
- Asymmetric Regulation

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) above.

Mid-day Meal Scheme

†*36. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored Mid-day Meal Scheme being run in different States; and

(b) the details of the budget allocated and targets achieved for the year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly called Mid-Day Meal Scheme) as revised in September, 2004 is being implemented in all States/UTs with the following main objectives:—

(i) To boost universalization of primary education of children studying in Govt., Govt.-aided, Local body schools and Centres

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.